FBIS DAILY REPORT

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KARMAL INTERVIEWED ON REVOLUTION'S AIMS, ACHIEVEMENTS

LD171403 Paris L'HUMANITE in French 11 Jul 80 p 8

[Jacques Coubard interview with Afghanistan President Babrak Karmal in Kabul: "Initial Successes Against the Aggression and Poverty, But Still Problems To Be Solved"--date of interview not specified]

[Excerpt] Kabul, 10 July--'I came to unite the party's ranks in order to end Amin's bloody regime. When consulted, the majority of the Central Committee and Revolution Council voted in favor of his removal. We had 10,000 party members organized for this task," the president [Babrak Karmal] told me. The fighting lasted several days, but after 24 hours the revolution had won a decisive victory. The party, government and Revolution Council leaderships were already established, with the support of those inside the state who had helped the uprising to succeed.

[Question] The Western press has inveighed against the revolution in Afghanistan, accusations of massacres and genocide have been made. There has even been talk on several occasions of your committing suicide. What do you think of this campaign?

Babrak Karmal: You have been able to see for yourself the truth about what is happening in Afghanistan. You have witnessed the situation during your long stay here. As you see, I am alive and sitting here in front of you. I am working for the success of the revolution in my country. Do I look like somebody who has tried to commit suicide?

When Afghanistan was governed by a bloody regime linked to the CIA and imperialism--Amin's regime, a regime of terror which summarily killed thousands of intellectuals, religious people, teachers, workers, peasants, party members and innocent people in the days of massacres and overcrowded prisons, in the days of that Pol-Pot-style regime, when several ministers and well-known figures in the political and intellectual worlds and also in the army were assassinated, there was no such campaign mounted by these defenders of freedom.

In the first few hours of the revolution's second phase (27 December 1979) we released more than 15,000 political prisoners. Yet people are inveighing against our revolution. Why? Because imperialism had hatched a plot to turn Afghanistan into a zone of tension and war against the Soviet Union, against the national liberation movement and against the anti-imperialist revolution in Iran.

The imperialist countries wanted to regain the positions they had lost. They had long been seeking pretexts to revive the arms race in order to implement their plan to deploy Pershing II missiles in Western Europe. To this end they stirred up trouble in Cuba, made use of the Middle East crisis with the Camp David treaty, the situation in the Horn of Africa, China's aggression against Vietnam and finally imperialism's plot recently concentrated on Afghanistan. However, all these imperialist plans have been major failures.

[Question] Your government took office 6 months ago. What is the outcome of your action in these first 6 months?

Babrak Karmal: We have done more in 6 months than was done in 6 years in the past.

We have succeeded in rebuilding the unity of the party which had become disorganized; we have been able to eliminate the serious crisis the country was experiencing....we have succeeded in forming a democratic government, and this is unprecedented in our country's history.

The Sawr Revolution, which had begun to deviate seriously from its course, has returned to the principles of an antifeudal and anti-imperialist revolution.

The general amnesty which was proclaimed enabled 15,000 people to escape the execution awaiting them. We have ended terror and despotism.

On 27 December we were facing an undeclared war. Large counterrevolutionary groups came from the 57 training bases in Pakistan supervised by U.S., British, Egyptian and Chinese experts, from the five bases in Xinjiang in China and from eight bases in Iran. We were faced with attempts to export counterrevolution.

We have been able to destroy a large number of elements from these bases. Today they no longer have the strength to confront us face-to-face. The has formed small terrorist groups. We are continuing our struggle to end their reign of terror.

Thanks to the Soviet Union's fraternal aid the government has been able to meet the essential needs of a large number of regions in our country affected by the painful consequences of Amin's policies. In particular we have been able to distribute seed, fertilizer and tractors to the peasants. We have been able to increase the cost of cotton and beet. To encourage production and improve the peasants' standard of living we have been able, for the first time in Afghanistan's history, to establish a balance of payments free of deficit. We have started to improve the workers' standard of living. Our armed forces, which had been weakened by the seven purges carried out under Amin, have been reorganized. We have reformed the state machinery. The process of the party's development toward a new type of working class party has been resumed. The mass youth, women's, workers' and peasants' organizations have been rivived and strengthened.

In addition, by forming the national patriotic front we have been able to create the broad objectives bases for a union among workers, peasants, traders, the petit and middle bourgeoisie, intellectuals and all categories of working people in our country.

In Amin's days, religions were repressed and religious people ridiculed. In our country the two branches of Islam, Sunni and Shi'ite, were artificially set against each other. The doors of the mosques and takhia-khana (Shi'ite mosques) which were previously closed, have been reopened. Religious freedom is respected and the traditions recognized by the government.

All the tribes and ethnic groups in our country which were persecuted have had their democratic rights and freedoms restored.

For the first time a progressive system has been adopted for national education. The Central Committee has adopted the republic's funadmental principles (which will be submitted to a constituent assembly--L'HUMANITE note) and new party rules. The ideas on the democratic and national revolution have become the party's program.

[Question] Counterrevolutionary organizations are continuing to receive material and political aid from Pakistan, Iran and China.

In these circumstances, what progress can be made toward the negotiated solution which you proposed to the neighboring countries to restore peace in the region?

Babrak Karmal: The statements made by our government on this subject, which you have published in L'HUMANITE, are the fundamental principles for a peace settlement in the region. In any case, we are in favor of a peaceful political solution to all the problems created over Afghanistan.

As long as the provocations and interferences in Afghanistan's internal affairs, as long as the attacks on our national independence and sovereignty constitute a danger, the Soviet army will remain in Afghanistan.

Afghanistan advocates a policy of peace. We want the detente policy to be continued and developed. We are a member of the nonaligned movement despite the howls of protest from the imperialists on this subject.

[Question] The stabilization of the situation has enabled Soviet units to be withdrawn. Will other withdrawals follow as the counterrevolution is pushed back in Afghanistan?

Babrak Karmal: The presence of those units in Afghanistan was, in fact, no longer necessary. I can assure you that with the aid of the socialist countries--especially the Soviet Union--and of the national liberation movements, the international workers' movement and of countries such as India, Syria, Algeria, Congo-Brazzaville and Mozambique, we are moving toward isolating our enemies both inside and outside the country. We have achieved major success on this plane.

At the same time we are moving toward new successes in our economic development policy and in improving the standard of living in order to build a society free from man's exploitation of man. This is the present phase in our national and democratic revolution. In this way we will succeed in eliminating counterrevolution. We are sure of our victory. Consequently, the Soviet forces will leave our country.

KARMAL MEETS WITH TRADE UNION PLENUM PARTICIPANTS

LD171920 Kabul Domestic Service in Dari 1600 GMT 17 Jul 80

[Text] Babrak Karmal, general secretary ofthe People's Democratic Party of Afghanistan [PDPA[Central Committee, chairman of the Revolution Council and prime minister, this afternoon received and talked to the participants of the first plenum of the central council of the Democratic Republic of Afghanistan [DRA] trade unions at the garden of the Revolution Council headquarters in the palace. Najmoddin Khawiani, the director of organizations of the Central Committee, and Dr Habib Mangal, the deputy director of organizations of the PDPA Central Committee for social organizations, were also present. The members of the first plenum of the central council of the DRA trade unions welcomed Babrak Karmal, who shook hands with each one of them.

At the outset, Sattar Pordeli, the president of the DRA trade unions, presented a report on the work of the plenum sessions. Babrak Karmal addressed the audience and said: Comrades, I am certain that you considered and analyzed very important issues at your first plenum, the first historic plenum, the genuine plenum of all the workers and toilers of Afghanistan.

Babrak Karmal described in detail the revolutionary mission of the working class and its role in the building of a new society and concluded his remarks by saying: We ought to maintain continous contact with the people at all times and seriously resist the exported forces of terrorism; there are no more difficult duties than these at present.

Afterward, some workers and activists of the Afghan trade unions put forward their questions and proposals in an extremely cordial and democratic atmosphere. Babrak Karmal gave detailed answers in a friendly manner which invoked a warm welcome from the audience.

WATER, POWER MINISTER MEETS WITH SOVIET OFFICIAL

LD172052 Kabul Domestic Service in Dari 1600 GMT 17 Jul 80

[Text] Dr Raz Mohammad Paktin, the minister of water and power, met at his office today with Poladzade, the first deputy minister of the land reclamation and water resources of the USSR. At this meeting, the leading officials of the Helmand construction unit, the (Vapika) institute of engineering and consultancy, and of the irrigation networks presented information about their respective institutions. After a discussion on a series of irrigation issues, the Soviet deputy minister promised all kinds of assistance in order to tackle the relevant difficulties.

EDUCATION MINISTER RETURNS FROM OVERSEAS TOUR

LD172100 Kabul Domestic Service in Dari 1600 GMT 17 Jul 80

[Text] Dr Anahita Ratebzad, member of the people's Democratic Party of Afghanistan Central Committee Politburo, member of the Revolution Council and minister of education and training, returned home this evening after visiting several countries. At Kabul international airport she was welcomed by members of the PDPA Central Committee; members of the Revolution Council and the council of ministers; deputy ministers and senior officials of the the Ministry of Education and training; director general of protoool of the Foreign Ministry; and leading members of the Afghan women's organization.

During her visits, Dr Ratebzad took part in Czechoslovakia's 35th independence anniversary, and participated in the UNESCO international conference held in Poland. The minister of education and training also took part in the sessions of the [words indistinct] of UNESCO which were held in New Zealand, and the arts festival held in Papua New Guinea.

On her arrival at Kabul international airport she was interviewed by BAKHTAR NEWS AGENCY. She said she met with party and government officials of the countries visited and held useful talks on Afghanistan's relations with these countries. She also visited scientific and cultural institutions in these countries. Dr Anahita Ratebzad regarded these visits as useful and interesting for the DRA revolution, and thanked the party and the government officials of the host countries for the hospitality accorded her and her companions.

GRADUATION CEREMONY HELD AT AIR FORCE COLLEGE

LD172050 Kabul Domestic Service in Dari 1600 GMT 17 Jul 80

[Text] Graduation certificates were presented to the graduates of the 17th term of the air force and air defense college at a meeting by the political director of the air force and air defense command yesterday.

The ceremony started with the Democratic Republic of Afghanistan national anthem and later the political director of the air force and air defense command in a speech drew the attention of the young graduates to their heavy responsibilities toward the territorial integrity, national independence, sovereignty and defense of the Sawr Revolution and its new stage of development and said: As a result of the liberating Sawr Revolution, especially with the victory of the new stage of its development, the enemies of the people of Afghanistan are struggling with their treacherous deeds to obstruct the development process of the glorious Sawr Revolution. It is the duty of us all to inflict lethal blows on these enemies of our revolution.

At this meeting, the commander of the air force and air defense college, the director of studies, the political officer of the college and one of the graduates also made speeches and expressed their support for the gains of the Sawr Revolution and its new stage of development.

KABUL PROVINCE SELECTS 510 FOR HAJJ PILGRIMAGE

LD172042 Kabul Domestic Service in Dari 1600 GMT 17 Jul 80

[Text] The lottery for places on the hajj pilgrimage from Kabul Province took place today under the supervision of a committee and in the presence of Dr Mahmud Habibi, governor of Kabul. The ceremony began with a recital of verses from the glorious Koran, after which Dr Mahmud Habibi made a speech on the Democratic Republic of Afghanistan Government's measures for the people's welfare. He said: I congratulate those whose names were drawn in the lottery, and I pray that Almighty God will enable those whose names did not appear to perform this holy duty in future years. Following this the president of Kabul provincial court and the Kabul passport officer spoke about the lofty values of the sacred Islamic religion and the method of the lottery.

This year 510 pilgrims from Kabul Province will perform the Hajj. Of this number, 247 are women who will be accompanied by relatives, and 263 are men.

REBELS REPORT 'MAJOR' SOVIET OFFENSIVE IN PAKTIA

BK180543 Hong Kong AFP in English 0528 GMT 18 Jul 80

[Text] Islamabad, July 18 (AFP)--A major Sov[illegible] offensive has been underway in the eastern Afghanistan province of Pakita since July 7, a rebel group said.

The Islamic Alliance for the Liberation of Afghanistan said that while Soviet planes were bombing villages near Kabul, several columns of tanks and motorized infantry had attacked four rebel positions around Gardez, Paktia's capital, as well as in the neighboring province of Ldwgar.

The outcome of the fighting was unclear, but the Moslem rebels said they had killed or wounded several Soviet soldiers and destroyed eight tanks.

The rebels said they lost 28 of their number in a July 14 clash on the Ghazni-Urgun road, but said 12 Soviet armored vehicles were blown up by landmines.

Rebel sources in Peshawar said they were engaged in a continuing fight against a column of 300 armored vehicles in Lowgar.

Also in Islamabad, Western diplomatic sources posted in Kabul said there had been renewed intense activity at the Kabul airport on Wednesday. Observers said most of the air traffic consisted of Soviet Antonov-12 cargo planes carrying materiel to troops in the field.

BBC: OFFICERS TRAINING IN INDIA REFUSE TO RETURN

TA180643 London BBC World Service in English 0600 GMT 18 Jul 80

[From correspondents' reports]

[Text] A minister in the Government of Afghanistan has made two visits to India in the past few days, but her presence has not been officially announced or even acknowleged. Mark Tully in Delhi tells us that she is believed to have been trying to persuade officers in the Afghan forces who are training in India to return home.

[Begin recording] Afghan diplomats and Indian officials have attempted to keep the minister's visit a secret. But my colleague (?Sethi Jacobs) caught up with her at the airport yesterday as she was leaving. Surrounded by Afghan diplomats and security men she claimed that she was just passing through Delhi. But her stay was unusually long for a transit passenger. In fact it appears that she was trying to make contact with young Afghans training with the Indian Armed Forces, some 250 of them all members of the elite officer coprs. A group of 20 Afghan officers who had finished their training have already left for Iran, rather than returning to serve alongside the Soviet forces in their own country. Thirty more are refusing to return and its reliably learnt that those who have still to complete their training have made it clear they don't want to go back. This is a blow the Babrak Karmal regime can ill-afford. Morale in the Afghan Army badly depleted by desertions is already dangerously low. [end recording]

AFP: TALKS WITH PAKISTAN ON BOUNDARY DISPUTE PROPOSED

BK180715 Hong Kong AFP in English 0705 GMT 18 Jul 80

[Text] New Delhi, July 18 (AFP)--The Soviet-backed Afghan Government has offered to hold talks with Pakistan on the Pakhtoonistan issue and the question of demarcating the boundaries between the two countries on the basis of the Durand line, it was reported here today.

The UNITED NEWS OF INDIA agency, quoting Middle Eastern diplomatic sources, said the Babrak Karmal regime's offer was part of a "package deal" which could also cover other matters like the presence of Soviet troops in Afghanistan, Afghan refugees in Pakistan, foreign interference in Afghanistan and other matters.

Since the creation of Pakistan in 1947, successive Afghan governments have refused to accept the Durand line as the international boundary or hold talks with the Pakistan Government to resolve the issue. The Afghans had also supported the move for self-determination by the Pakhtoon tribals who inhabit the region.

The agency said Kabul's new offer could mean a major diplomatic victory for Pakistan and it was likely the two countries soon start a dialogue at an unofficial level.

SATELLITE SUCCESSFULLY LAUNCHED 18 JULY

BK180748 Delhi Domestic Service in English 0730 GMT 18 Jul 80

[Text] According to UNITED NEWS OF INDIA, India's second satellite launch vehicle SLV-3 has successfully placed a 35-kg Rohini satellite in near-earth orbit. The Indian-built satellite launch vehicle boomed into the sky from Sriharikota at 0804 [0234 GMT] this morning carrying the Rohini satellite. The four-stage rocket took off with a thunderous noise reverberating through the countryside. A short while after the launching, the rocket disappeared in the distant sky. A large number of people gathered at various places in the vicinity and watched the rocket streaking upwards.

The first stage of separation of the four-stage rocket took place at height of 80 kms, but it could not be seen because of the clouds. The vehicle sped up at over 44,800 kms an hour. Over 2,000 scientists present at the Sriharikota complex watched the take off on closed-circuit TV. A group of scientists soon went into a post-flight analyses. The ground station in Car Nicobar Island and four other network stations all over the country are to monitor the telemetric data from the vehicle.

COMMENTATOR REVIEWS OUTCOME OF SHAHI VISIT

BK180615 Delhi Domestic Service in English 1545 GMT 17 Jul 80

[Commentary by Prithvis Chakraborty]

[Text] Despite some minor diplomatic indiscretion committed by Pakistan Foreign Minister Agha Shahi at the official dinner hosted for him by India's external affairs minister, his 2-day talks with Indian leaders cannot be said to have been unfruitful. Mr Shahi raised the oft-repeated Pakistani apprehensions on India's acquisition of sophisticated arms, insinuating that it gave a boost to an arms race in the region and he also made a reference to the yet unresolved Kashmir issue. The Pakistan minister had already touched on these issues at his meetings with Mrs Indira Gandhi and External Affairs Minister Narasimha Rao. As both the issues are controversial and were meant to be tackled at the confidential discussions already underway, Mr Shahi's reference to them at the dinner speech attended by a cross section of New Delhi's diplomatic corps could have only a propagandist purpose. That is a deadly conclusion to arrive at so far as Pakistan foreign minister's present mission is concerned, but India showed a measure of indulgence by expressing just surprise at Mr Shahi's action and allowing it to pass. That was the proper thing for India to do, for India and Pakistan as neighbors have much serious business to talk over even in normal circumstances. But the present circumstances in the South Asian region are not normal, especially as there is a growing threat of superpower confrontation in the wake of the Soviet Union's military intervention in Afghanistan. India and Pakistan have together to bend their energies to seek a peaceful solution to the explosive Afghanistan situation for the peace, stability and economic development of their own countries, of the region as a whole aside from that of Afghanistan itself. The speedy normalization of relations between India and Pakistan acquires a special urgency in this context which can only be ignored at grave peril.

The [word indistinct] of the dinner speech apart, the Pakistan foreign minister's talks with the Indian leaders do appear to have served some purpose in clearing the (?desk) of viewing the regional problems and their mutual relations with a commonality of purpose. Mr Agha Shahi seemingly gave a fairly detailed account of the deliberations of the Islamic foreign ministers conference on the Afghan issue held in Pakistan in May this year and also those of his talks with West European leaders whom he met recently.

The three-member committee of the Islamic foreign ministers, which includes Mr Shahi and which was commissioned to seek a negotiated settlement of the Afghan issue by direct talks with Moscow, has not made much headway so far. But India welcomed the Pakistan Government's to [word indistinct] its position about the need for a political settlement of the problem, rather than a military one, because this brings the attitudes and the approaches of New Delhi and Islamabad closer.

At Mr Shahi's talks with Mrs Gandhi and Mr Narasimha Rao, both the Indian leaders are reported to have acknowledged the present moderation in the Pakistani approach to the Afghan problem to be a realistic and a sound one. What role India or the nonaligned nations as a group can play in bringing about an early withdrawal of the Soviet troops from Afghanistan, however, remains open still. We must await the outcome of the proposed meeting of the foreign ministers of nonaligned nations in New Delhi. But plainly, Mr Shahi's New Delhi talks on the issue have made a forward move by way of the emergence of a common South Asian regional approach.

The India-Pakistan talks during Mr Shahi's visit also took up in some detail the question of trade, travel, cultural exchanges and easier facilities for pilgrims to visit the shrines in the two countries. In all of those, it would appear the progress has been substantial. Indeed, at her talks with the visiting Pakistani leader, Mrs Gandhi is reported to have expressed a measure of disappointment that the progress in these fields, despite the great promise of the Simla agreement of 1972, has been tardy. Her sentiments apparently set a tone for the talks. While concrete decisions have been taken regarding better travel facilities for the pilgrims and ordinary visitors, the question of trade and more frequent exchange of cultural delegations are to be followed up by joint committees of experts. We have to realize, however, that the basic purpose of the high-level visits promoted by Mr Agha Shahi's current sojourn is not so much the working out the details of bilateral agreements as much as to foster a sense of mutual trust and confidence that can pave the way for a commonality of purpose and objective.

Mr Shahi's discussions in New Delhi are, thus, to be seen as a continuation of that endeavor. India's elder statesman, Mr Swaran Singh, visited Pakistan recently on the same mission. There were also exchanges of visits by the foreign secretaries of the two countries. Mrs Gandhi and Pakistan President General Ziaul Haq held their meeting in Zimbabwe. It was at her meeting with General Zia that Mrs Gandhi sought to dispel Pakistani apprehensions by offering the bland assurance that India-Pakistan frontiers must denote peace and friendship and there would be no military threat to Pakistan from India. She also sought to convey India's earnest desire to structure India-Pakistan relations on peace and on friendship. India's assurances were repeated once again during the current visit of the Pakistan foreign minister.

Pakistan, and India also, should try to get over their past misgivings and start off with a new resolution denoted by the forthright Indian assurances.

COMMENTATOR REVIEWS SHAHI'S DELHI TALKS

BK180222 Karachi Domestic Service in English 1715 GMT 17 Jul 80

[Commentary by Akhtar Kiami]

[Text] The Pakistan foreign minister's brief visit to India clearly underlines President Gen Mohammad Ziaul Haq's pragmatic approach to crucial international issues. During his talks with Indian leaders he repeatedly stressed Pakistan's determination to preserve peace in the region which has been greatly threatened by external elements. While dispelling all apprehensions, Agha Shahi told his counterpart and the Indian prime minister that Pakistan had never been interested in pursuing a confrontative course. In fact, such a policy pursued by any country would only cause disaster. The subcontinent, which has suffered enormously because of continued alien rule for several centuries, desperately needs an uninterrupted era of peace and tranquility. Millions of its people have lived a life of deprivation because of a climate of uncertainty. A new realization must now dawn upon relations inhabiting this region. It was precisely in this context that Agha Shahi undertook the visit to New Delhi.

In the course of his free and frank discussions with Indian leaders, Mr Shahi made two specific points. He stressed the need for following a rational course in the region in view of the new developments. He emphasized the importance of creating a climate of harmony in Afghanistan which has been greatly disturbed by foreign interventions. In this connection, the foreign minister informed India that the committee constituted by the Islamic foreign ministers conference was already in touch with Afghan leaders. It was, therefore, believed that a way would soon be found for restoring a climate of understanding in Afghanistan enabling the refugees to go back to their own land. The world is now fully aware of the enormous burden that Pakistan has to bear on account of the influx of several hundred thousand Afghan men, women and children into the territory of Pakistan. It is purely on human considerations that Pakistan has undertaken the uphill task of providing food and shelter to the helpless people. Pakistan is, therefore, naturally anxious to get this problem solved as expeditionsly as possible and for its solution it has been exploring all avenues. As India is the closest neighbor of Pakistan, Agha Shahi undertook the visit to Delhi to apprise the Indian leaders of President Haq's thinking on this issue.

Secondly, Pakistan once again expressed its desire to improve its relations with India. Indeed Pakistan has been persistently making all efforts for the improvement of relations between the two countries. Beside the normal course of exchanging visits and providing greater communications facilities, Pakistan has also made several political and economic moves to drive away doubts and suspicion which have often clouded the atmosphere of normalization. Agha Shahi once again made it abundantly clear that Pakistan has no desire of making nuclear bombs. Nuclear power is needed only to replenish its depleting energy resources. The countries of the region engulfed in a mirage of pressing problems cannot be expected to undertake any adventurous course without ruining the prospects of peace. It is hoped that Mr Shahi's visit would evoke a positive response from New Delhi and the Indian leaders would realize the importance of having a friendly Pakistan along their borders.

DELEGATION DEPARTS TO ATTEND BAGHDAD FESTIVITIES

GF161753 Karachi Domestic Service in Urdu 1500 GMT 16 Jul 80

[Text] Housing and Works Minister Inamul Haq Khan left Islamabad for Baghdad today heading a two-member delegation to participate in the Iraqi July revolution celebrations.

SRI LANKA

COMMUNIQUE ON STATE OF EMERGENCY ISSUED

BK171111 Colombo International Service in English 1045 GMT 17 Jul 80

[Text] The government has invoked the Public Security Act and declared a state of emergency. The action came in the wake of reports that certain trade unions and politically motivated organizations have decided to call a general strike.

A government communique said that all employees in the public sector and also the private sector in essential services who do not report for work on Friday [18 July] and thereafter will be considered to have vacated the post. Additionally they will be guilty of an offense under the law. Steps will be taken to immediately recruit personnel to fill posts that fall vacant.

AFP on Security Measures

BK171217 Hong Kong AFP in English 1154 GMT 17 Jul 80

[Text] Colombo, 17 July (AFP)--Strict security measures were brought into operation in Sri Lanka today as opposition trade union leaders decided to go ahead with their planned general strike tomorrow defying a government ban on work stoppages in essential services.

The government yesterday declared a state of emergency and invoked the Public Security Act outlawing strikes in essential services both in the public and private sectors. Troops today joined police in guarding key installations and patrolling streets.

Sections of employees in some government institutions came out on strike today as opposition trade unions led by those belonging to Marxist parties began building up their strike campaign which they hope to lead to a climax next Monday [21 July] when the government marks its third anniversary in office.

The government yesterday issued a strong warning saying those who join in the general strike would be sacked and their vacancies would be immediately filled.

The Joint Trade Union Action Committee (JTUAC), comprising 16 opposition trade union federations, which is organising the strike, met in emergency session this morning and decided to launch their planned general strike tomorrow defying the government's emergency regulations.

Trade unions of the Communist Party (Moscow wing) and the Trotskyite Lanka Sama Samaja Party are leading the striking unions which include those of former prime minister Mrs Sirimavo Bandaranaike's Sri Lanka Freedom Party.

L.W. Panditha, convenor of the JTUAC, said they were launching the strike demanding an immediate rupees 300 per month increase in wages and other allowances to meet the rising cost of living.

Government spokesman denounced the planned strike as "politically motivated" and said the government had announced earlier that it was considering granting a wage increase.

The government cancelled leave of employees in the public sector and promised a cash allowance to those manning essential services who report for duty during the emergency. Trade unions affiliated to the ruling United National Party have pledged their support to the government.

Some ministers have already started recruiting new hands to fill vacancies that may be created if any strikers are sacked.

Meanwhile, a strike by a section of employees in the railways which has disrupted some train services went into its second week today. Railway authorities charged that 25 acts of sabotage had been discovered in the railways since the strike started, some of which could have led to serious derailments with heavy losses of life.

A large number of university students continued their boycott of examinations for the fourth day today in support of a claim for higher wages by university teachers.

Security services sources said that in addition to guarding strategic installations and patrolling the streets, troops were also standing by in their stations to go into action to help police in maintaining law and order if the need arose tomorrow. Meanwhile, hundreds of volunteers of the army, navy and air force have responded to the mobilisation call sent out two days ago.

BRIEFS

SRI LANKAN SABOTAGE PROBE--A top-level police investigation is now underway into the activities of a group of persons who are believed to be planning acts of sabotage in Trincomalee. Police sources said yesterday that according to intelligence reports the group is aiming at disrupting the transport services in the area. The investigators were ordered yesterday to see whether the group had any political connections. [Colombo THE SUN in English 1 Jul 80 p 1 BK]

JAPANESE AID TO SRI LANKA--The Japanese Government has decided to provide $36 million for development activities in the Colombo port. This was disclosed at the recent Paris aid consortium. It followed discussions between minister of trade and the Japanese Government. Repayment will be in between 30 and 40 years with a 10-year grace period. This is the first time that Japan is giving such a big sum at one time to any country. [Colombo International Service in English 1005 GMT 8 Jul 80 BK]

GUNMEN ATTEMPT TO KILL SHAHPUR BAKHTIAR IN PARIS

Details of Attempt

NC180838 Paris in English 0834 GMT 18 Jul 80

[Text] Paris, July 18 (AFP)--A policeman was killed and three people gravely wounded today when an armed commando, four men and a woman, attempted to assassinate Shahpur Bakhtiar, the last prime minister to serve under the shah of Iran, at his daughter's home in an exclusive Paris suburb.

Earlier reports said a woman tenant and the building's porter were also killed, but official police sources said that the woman and two police, on guard duty, were seriously wounded. The woman was said to be in a desperate condition.

Three members of the commando were arrested, one of them reportedly wounded, while two managed to get away.

Contacted by telephone, Mr Bakhtiar appeared calm, telling AGENCE FRANCE-PRESSE that he was "finishing his breakfast" and had expected the attempt as "Khomeyn supporters had threatened it long ago."

A witness said the commando arrived outside Mr Bakhtiar's daughter's residence around 9 a.m. and began arguing with the two police on duty outside the building.

The gunmen did not appear to know in which apartment she lived and began knocking on doors at random. At this point a woman in the building opened her door to complain about the row and was shot.

Locating the Bakhtair home, the commando fired seven shots at the heavily armoured door and fled. The two guards had by this time received first reinforcements and a dramatic shootout broke out in the street.

Three of the commando were arrested immediately and seconds later an anti-terrorist squad arrived on the scene and began a systematic search of the entire area.

Bakhtiar Interview

LD180942 Paris Domestic Service in French 0800 GMT 18 Jul 80

[Paris radio newswoman Arlette Chabou telephone interviews with correspondent Bertrand Vannier and with former Iranian Premier Shahpur Bakhtiar on assassination attempt against Bakhtiar]

[Text] [Arlette Chabou] There was a murder attempt this morning on Mr Shahpur Bahktiar, the former prime minister of Iran, at his residence, an apartment on Boulevard Bineau in Paris. A group of armed men attacked the apartment. We'll go over to one of our reporters on the spot right now. I think Bertrand Vannier is on the line.

[Vannier] Yes, Arlette. Well, we can see our way to reconstructing what happened this morning at about 0825 at the corner of Boulevard Bineau and Boulevard d'Inkermann in Neuilly-sur-seine, west of Paris, where Shahpur Bakhtiar has been living since he arrived in Paris.

Three men who arrived on foot reportedly tried to get into the building where Mr Bakhtiar lives. They reportedly succeeded in the first part of their mission--getting up the stairs. To do that, they shot two policemen. One of them is reported dead, the other seriously wounded. After the shootout, which took place on the ground floor, the men got to the second floor, where Mr Bakhtiar's apartment is. There, there was another shootout, and the two policemen on that floor were reportedly both seriously wounded, while a woman living in the building, not connected with this business in any way, was killed on the spot. So, there are two people dead from the attack, a policeman and woman living in the block, and two people wounded--two policemen on duty.

Of course, Mr Bakhtiar's bodyguards and other policemen in the vicinity of the block went into action. Of the three men--no one knows exactly--one is said to have been wounded, the other two arrested, but the policemen I have just met, who are still crouching behind the walls with guns in their hands, are not certain whether the three men have been arrested.

The uniformed policemen, who have shut off the whole district, are still holding their weapons. According to them, possibly only two of the members of the group--two men--have been arrested. There would still be one left.

As you can hear, I think there has just been shooting from behind.

[Chabou] Which proves, Bertrand, that it isn't over yet.

[Vannier] It can't be over yet. As you can tell, it is in fact possible that one of the three men in the group is still in the building where Mr Bakhtiar lives.

I forgot to tell you that Mr Bakhtair was not hit. He is reportedly safe and sound. The armed men, in fact, did not manage to get inside his apartment.

[Chabou] So, for the moment, we have two people dead--one policeman and one tenant from the block who was hit because she happened to be passing by.

[Vannier] That's right, and one of the wounded policemen is reported to have been very seriously wounded, because he was shot in the head.

[Chabou] Shahpur Bakhtiar was not hit. He is, in fact, safe and sound, and [name indistinct] has just got through to him on the telephone. As you will hear, he is not particularly surprised at this kind of attack. [begin recording]

[Bakhtiar] We were always expecting it.

[Question] Did you feel yourself specially threatened recently?

[Answer] Well, of course, since they were saying it officially, and the French Government was not [two words indistinct]. There are (?irresponsible) people in Iran. There are only irresponsible people. I felt under threat even when I was in Iran, in hiding. I felt under threat the whole time, but that will not change my usual habits, so I am resuming my usual habits.

[Question] How many people were there in the group?

[Answer] Three, apparently three.

[Question] Three people, and the three have been arrested?

[Answer] Yes, three [as heard] have been arrested. [end recording]

Khalkhali Statement

NC180911 Paris AFP in English 0903 GMT 18 Jul 80

[Text] Tehran, July 18, (AFP)--Ayatollah Sadeq Khalkhali told AGENCE FRANCE-PRESSE today that he knew nothing about the attack on former Premier Shahpur Bakhtiar in Paris and had not ordered it.

The ayatollah, currently waging war on drug peddlers, said he had "not ordered any commando action of that nature."

In a speech to the Islamic assembly on Tuesday he said measures should be taken to stop Mr Bakhtiar's activities in France and Britain against the Iranian regime.

Guards of Islam Statement

LD181038 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 0950 GMT 18 Jul 80

[Text] Dear listeners, the following statement has just been issued by a group calling itself the Guards of Islam group [Goruh-e Pasdaran-e Eslam]:

And verily wage battle against the companions of Satan for Satan's deceit is weak [quotation from Koran].

World-devouring imperialism and international Zionism imagined that by backing a traitorous and terrorist element such as Bakhtiar they could regain what they had lost. Their domestic agents, too, also dreamed of his coming regime and that of the U.S. advisers. Bakhtiar, this germ of corruption, thinks that by putting forward the slogan of social democracy and of nationalism he can divert our meek and Muslim nation from its ideological line.

Muslim nation of Iran. We, the Guards of Islam, because of Bakhtiar's active participation in the plots in Kordestan, the explosions in Khuzestan, the recent coup de'etat, the plan for bombing sensitive points in the country, and the massacres and crimes perpetrated during the era of the martial law administration prior to the revolution, in accordance with the ruling of the sacred Islamic Shari'ah, have condemned him to death. In a later statement we will describe at length the course, the reasons and motives for this revolutionary action.

[Signed] The Guards of Islam group.

STATEMENTS CONCERNING RECENT COUP ATTEMPT

Bani-Sadr Interview

LD180811 Tehran BAMDAD in Persian 15 Jul 80 pp 1, 3

[Unattributed "radio-television" interview on 14 July with Iranian President Bani-Sadr; "President Announces Details of Coup d'Etat Plot and Local Background"]

[Text] In an important radio-television interview last night, Abolhasan Bani-Sadr explained new details of the coup d'etat plot and the local background to it. In the interview, the president described local difficulties and issues and strongly criticized the media and groups which created an inflammatory atmosphere. Owing to the lateness of the hour when the interview was broadcast, it is not possible to print the whole interview with the president. Part One appears here and you may read the second part tomorrow.

In reply to the first question from a correspondent concerning the coup d'etat plot and how it had been discovered, Abolhasan Bani-Sadr said: Last night, when Mr Eshraqi and the prosecutor general for the revolution were here, we discussed the plot, which had been contained through the implementation of proper measures. Mr Eshraqi said that my message had arrived, giving the news that the plotters' activities had been curbed and that the danger was over, and that the imam had smiled and said, "Well, then, let us go to bed."

This shows that great confidence which he had in our work, and it is a source of great joy for us. Mr Ardabili proposed at the Revolution Council that "we thank the president for his efforts in neutralizing the plot."

I said that I was not concerned with thanks, but there are some individuals who are putting out propaganda and making it appear that the coup d'etat was staged by those who are not against me, and by this means they set the scene for the settling of scores; there are also those who pretend to be knowledgeable but who are not so, and there is a group which spread the rumor that prepared the way for the enemy. The truth is the truth, and lies are lies.

The truth is that just over a month ago the air force commander at that time said that groups were being formed in the air force; he may have mentioned that this was taking place among paratroops, and he may have referred explicitly to Nowzheh. We communicated this information to the intelligence organization for investigation and we followed up the matter. Three weeks ago when he was referring to those plotting this coup d'etat, their strength was then estimated to be between 70-80 persons, 10 of whom were known to us at the time. Two weeks before that, Dr Bahonar telephoned me to say that he was coming to tell me something important. It transpired that two persons wished to tell Dr Yazdi something and that when they could not find him they spoke to Dr Bahonar instead. They said that they had been informed that the plan was to be carried out on Friday 2 weeks ago. When I went to Shohada Square to make a speech, a lady threw a letter into my car revealing the distribution of arms in Tehran and mentioning the name of a member of the military.

Two days before that, information was received concerning two political groups. I already had this information, of course, and it was nothing new; after all, the intelligence forces were all coordinated. They followed up the matter of the plot, whereby the group was to assemble at a certain location.

But what connection is there between the plot and the previous plots? We have just arrested the Bakhtiar group. They are now under investigation and their connection will be clarified. This is the truth of the matter, whatever interpretation may be put on it. One group seeks to benefit in one way and another group in another way.

My recommendation is that they should cease this opportunist behavior, since it creates an atmosphere conducive to such plots. Since no plot will succeed without a social base, if there is no social base there can be no plot.

As regards the plot being discovered after 4 months: This has caused some red faces. Those who tried both directly and indirectly to portray me as being under the influence of America and antireligion and themselves as being supporters of religion are the ones with the red faces.

I ask you now, if the plot had succeeded, would there have not been tremendous chaos? It would have been unbearable. This is the crux of the matter. It was testing me, it was showing the people what it really is that makes America grieve and what America finds so unbearable. America harbors no love for Iran but derives benefit from Iran. America sees that we are no mere hooligans, satisfied to content ourselves with slogans rather than wage a serious struggle against them. Carter's security adviser wrote to the French newspaper LE MONDE: "Each day's delay is to the detriment of the West." So undoubtedly we must be doing something, if each day's delay is to the detriment of the West.

This conspiracy is an example: If you look at the newspapers, you gain the false impression that the coup d'etat plotters are not against the president and they are even seeking to placate me. Well, this is propaganda aimed at hiding their tracks and covering up the destructive designs of such conspiracies.

Elsewhere the president said: They advertise the fact that they follow Western policy and that they are liberals. What would our fate have been if their predictions had come true? If I were in sympathy with them, what need would they have to plot against me? It can be seen fron these plots they hatch that I am the supporter of religion, and the people have correctly distinguished this. It is wrong for a wayward minority to say that it has determined that the nation is wrong, when it has elected a president with the largest majority in human history. No, the nation has discriminated correctly; this is the line of religion, the line which follows the path of true independence does not accept domination by any power over its land and has no wish to dominate any thing or anyone in the world.

In answer to another question, Bani-Sadr said: I said that we have been informed of a more extensive plot, and you should know that any result obtained will be communicated to everyone. It may happen that we are informed, yet the conspiracy still succeeds; this depends on how strong we are when we come up against it.

If you look into the matter and wish to make a comparison, you will see that after the 30 Tir [in 1953], especially after Esfand, this type of propaganda was current and deliberately prepared the way for the accomplishment of the coup d'etat of 28 Mordad [bringing the shah back to power in August 1953]. What is the meaning of what I am saying? The meaning is that a coup d'etat will not take place unless there is a psychological, economic and military basis, enabling the armed forces to act either in the interests of the enemy or, if they cannot, then at least to remain neutral and not act. A program has to be implemented, and I believe that this is now being done. In what form? If the army wishes to go into action, in what way should it do so? A plan must be drawn up, a commander must issue orders, institutions must fall into line. Now, if instructions are not obeyed, then what has happened to the army? It remains neutral. For it to remain neutral, the chain of command must disappear and the army must be discredited in the eyes of those outside. You now see that this very plot which the army has discovered, instead of winning it approbation, serves as a means of adverse publicity for the whole body of the military, and the army command is being discredited. This, then, is the plan of which I speak: Its forces outside the army have been made ready; there are weapons and ammunition outside the army; so to implement the plan it is necessary for the army to be neutralized, to be unable to act and move against the plan.

However, as regards the guards corps: For some time now, we have been witnessing how a number of individuals have been engaging in propaganda which is not in sympathy with the corps and the guards. They have been saying that the president of the republic is crushing the revolutionary institutions, especially the guards corps. There are even those who come here and say "there are mistakes but, after all, this is a revolutionary institution." When I considered the matter carefully, I saw that this was said not out of sympathy for them, but to discredit them.

I paid visits to various cities. In most places the corps were being made to oppose the clergy, who in turn did not realise that if they wished to disband the corps, the first thing to do was to discredit them--which is what they are now doing. How can the corps be discredited? One way is to say that the clergy consider the corps to be following the wrong path, and another to say that the president of the republic despises them. These people were lying, then, and felt no sympathy for the corps. I considered it my duty to ensure that the corps did not exceed its mandate, that a chain of command could be created and that those who wished to implement other designs by making use of the corps should be expelled.

Elsewhere Bani-Sadr said: However, as regards the economy: Last summer it was said that within 2 months matters would come to a head. Two months later this had turned out to be a rumor; no, not a rumor but a plan to destroy confidence in the country's currency. Some were saying that the true identity of those responsible for blocking our funds in America should be revealed, and that we should not go by what the French newspaper said. The decision to block our currency was taken at that time, and this was part of their plan so that, as happened in the case of Chile, confidence in the currency would be destroyed and prices would be raised all at once. Well, in this case, if they had done what they said, we would have been paralyzed.

However, at a tripartite meeting we took the decision to restrict the availability of our currency, to give it a gold backing, and import gold into Iran secretly. This is what we did, and we made a profit of 1.2 trillion [currency not specified] on the gold transaction.

At any rate, this resulted in the failure of their plans, and we have been able to make purchases and keep our economy going, while our banking system has been functioning astonishingly well.

There are groups which wear our colors but work against us. This brings us back to what Mr Ardabili said, when he offered a vote of thanks. Their propaganda makes it appear that I was plotting against myself.

Elsewhere Dr Bani-Sadr said: However, as far as a political, social and psychological base in the community is concerned, what greater revolution than ours has humanity ever seen--a revolution in which the whole nation, without arms or organized forces, went into action; and why is it that now everyone is waiting expectantly for something to happen tomorrow? Our mass media are responsible for this; they are inflaming the atmosphere. When you engage in incitement and inflammatory propaganda from morning to night you create this expectancy in people's minds, and that is why those involved in the coup d'etat were so easily drawn into it. When you live in a community where everyone is expecting something to happen the next day, then you are more like to be prepared psychologically to be deceived. The people are told: "There is no one in charge now, so come out and have a field day." And they accept this challenge, hoping that at least in the new regime they will attain status. "Well," they say, "We have had enough; what kind of life is this, with the radio, the television and the newspapers putting out inflammatory material from morning to night...."

When has our revolution ever adopted such methods? Every revolution claims to be permanent. Even that miserable former shah understood that it was harmful for the media to betray any lack of confidence. The people say: "If the media lack confidence, let us strike."

Yet we ourselves are publicizing such a lack of confidence. Look, will you stop publicizing instability? How many times have you ever encouraged the people to support reconstruction in your programs? In my view, the ranks of those in charge of the media have been infiltrated by intermediaries of the enemy, whose role they are acting. At the same time, instead of disgracing the revolution, this plot shows who supports which side.

Now they have begun to blow from the opposite direction. They are like cats which always fall on their feet. The people understand everything well; they know the identities of those who are resorting to these ploys. Where in the world does it happen that people stage a revolution and then announce: "We have no stability?" This is being done to derive advantage from instability.

Our country enjoys total stability, and we must progress calmly. One cannot say that those in the army above the rank of private are traitors; that would be like all of us becoming coup d'etat plotters. The army must be assured that we will support it, as in the past, that we value its honesty, and that we shall seize and punish traitors, whatever their disguise.

Elsewhere Bani-Sadr said: To inspire people with hope, the media should not create an atmosphere of gloom and despondency, otherwise there will only be talk of the past. You must reconsider your methods of reporting; once all material put out by the media become provocative, the atmosphere will be one of incitement, despair and hopelessness.

Those who think that the role of the radio and television service is to flatter or to abuse must relinquish their posts and make way for those who understand the media's real significance. According to the investigation which we have carried out, 80 percent of the people say, "we do not hear the truth from radio, television or the newspapers." If 80 percent of the people have come to believe that they do not hear the truth from their radio, television and newspapers, then the ground is prepared for those who invent and peddle rumor.

To dispel this atmosphere, you must change your methods. Ours is one of the most stable of regimes and leans principally on the people. How many times have you ever made it your task to show the people what has been accomplished?

The general director of the Central Bank complained to me that in an interview, the interviewer started off by berating him. (Here the television interviewer said: "I was the person who interviewed him.") Well, he was berated....[Bani-Sadr ends]

The remainder of the interview will appear in tomorrow's edition.

Neutralization Statement No 8

ID172114 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1936 GMT 17 Jul 80

[Text] Statement No 8 of the staff coordinating the neutralization of the plot was issued tonight in connection with the identification of a few other elements fleeing from justice, as follows:

In the name of God, the compassionate, the merciful. Dear and exalted Iranian compatriots, as we have informed you in previous statements, certain mercenary elements of the extensive U.S.-Israeli-Iraqi tripartite antipopular plot are still in hiding, and in statement No 7 we identified the first group of elements in hiding. We now identify the second group of individuals in hiding who are members of the conspiratorial network and appeal to the whole nation, particularly the dear border people, to capture these U.S. mercenaries. It is axiomatic that increasing vigilance by the Muslim nation of Iran will play a great role in arresting these elements in hiding.

We now embark on identifying the second group of agents in hiding:

1. Warrant Officer Nader Mardani from the Nowhed brigade; particulars: height: 177 cm; broad shoulders; dark chestnut hair.

2. Retired Colonel Nosratollah Sepehr, the son of Mohammad; place of birth: Hamadan; age: 55 years.

3. Warrant Officer 'Ali Dehqani, the son of Seyfollah; born in Garmshahr; age: 44 years. The said individual served in the Manjil barracks in 1979.

4. Colonel 'Ata'ollah Nurbakht; dark eyes and eyebrows.

5. Reza Nadibegi, from the Mowhed unit: tall; high forehead and broad, dark eyes and eyebrows; speaks with a slight Turkish accent; and owns a Dodge station wagon which is light blue.

6. Colonel Morteza Qabaqeri from the Nowhed unit; particulars: height: 177 cm; thin hair; light brown complexion; wide, wrinkled face; high forehead; broad-shouldered, speaks with a northern accent and also knows some Turkish.

Once again we appeal to the combant Muslim nation of Iran to identify these conspiratorial agents of the world-devouring United States, usurping Israel, and the venal Iraqi Ba'th.

And peace be upon you.

[Signed] The staff coordinating the neutralization of the plot

ASSEMBLY ELECTS JURISTS TO COUNCIL OF GUARDIANS

LD171240 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 0930 GMT 17 Jul 80

[Text] The Islamic consultative assembly held a session this morning to elect the six jurist members of the council of the guardians of the Constitution of the Islamic Republic of Iran.

Today's open session, which began with the citing of some verses of the Holy Koran and which was headed by Mr Yadollah Sahabi, came immediately after a 1-hour closed session.

The meeting began with the deputy for Saveh carrying out the congratulatory ceremony, following which the report of [words indistinct] regarding the credentials of Mr 'Ali Mo'ini, the deputy for Shahi, was submitted and sent to the investigating committee.

Then the report of the investigating committee on the credentials of Messers Baha od-Din A'lam ol-Hoda'i, the deputy for Ardebil, and Hashem Sabbaghian, the deputy for Tehran was discussed and the credentials of these deputies were approved.

The report of our correspondent states that the deputies were asked to vote to elect the six jurist members of the council of guardians. Thus, from the 195 people present at the session the following results were obtained: Mr Hoseyn Eftekhar-rahimi, 190 votes; Mr Hoseyn Mehrpur, 179 votes; Mr (?Mahhud) Hadavi, 172 votes; Mr Mehdi Hadavi, 151 votes; Mr 'Ali (Aram) 140 votes; Mr Mohammad Salehi, 88 votes.

Since the sixth person did not receive the votes required to elect him several deputies submitted suggestions.

The session adjourned at 1255 and was resumed at 1320 and another ballot was held to elect the sixth member. As a result, of 172 people present at the session, Mr Mohammad Salehi, who gained 132 votes, was elected sixth jurist member of the council of guardians.

PREAGENDA SPEAKERS AT MAJLES OPEN SESSION REPORTED

LD171856 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1630 GMT 17 Jul 80

[Text] During today's Majles session Fakhreddin Hejazi, deputy from Tehran, spoke of the celebration held at the residence of the Iraqi consul general in Tehran on the occasion of the Ba'th Party's establishment anniversary during which alcohol was served. He presented the assembly with a question on the matter to be forwarded to the Foreign Ministry and requested the Foreign Ministry to explain: Since relations between Iran and the Ba'ath Government of Iraq are severed, the Ba'ath Goverment of Iraq has inflicted the greatest damage upon the Islamic Republic of Iran. Why does the consul general of this aggressive government embark upon such dirty and sinful actions during the month of Ramadan? The deputies supported the Tehran deputy's question with chants of "God is great."

During preagenda speeches at today's open session Mohammad Taqi Ranjbar, deputy from Som'eh Sara in Gilan Province, spoke of the exposure of the recent coup plot, and suggested that the conspirators be tried at Behesht Zahra cemetery and representatives of (?world) liberation movements be invited to see for themselves the documents of the U.S. crimes. He also asked for the trial of the American hostages to be held at Behesht Zahra.

The next speaker, Mohammad Javad Raja'ian deputy from Zanjan, suggested the assembly's sessions should be broadcast only on radio in order to save energy. He said broadcast and recordings of the assembly's session by television were both costly and an energy-wasting exercise. He also said in view of the forthcoming official deliberations of the assembly, bills approved by the Revolution Council should be made available to the deputies. In conclusion the Zanjan deputy pointed to the needs of his constituency and requested that these needs be taken into consideration.

Asadallah 'Alipour, deputy from Ilam, spoke of the Iran-Iraq border clashes and said: The people of Ilam know well that the Iraqi mercenary elements will always retreat when confronted by the resistance and will of our fighting brothers and their might. He said the people of his constituency will always cooperate with the army and the revolution guards in order to safeguard their region.

The assembly's open session ended at 1340 and it was announced that the next open session will be held at 0930 on Sunday.

HABIBI COMMENTS ON REVOLUTION COUNCIL FINAL SESSION

LD172048 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1946 GMT 17 Jul 80

[Text] The last session of the Revolution Council has been held at the Prime Ministry with engineer Mehdi Bazargan as chairman.

According to the PARS NEWS AGENCY, at the conclusion of tonight's meeting, Dr Hasan Habibi, the council's spokesman, said: One or two bills were approved tonight; this was the Revolution Council's last day of work.

Since the elected members of the council of guardians will announce their duties on Saturday, and on Sunday the Islamic consultative assembly will hold an open and official session, the Revolution Council's work practically comes to an end. On Saturday, only the committees of the Revolution Council will hold meetings.

He added: On Sunday we will possibly gather here for the last time, yet today was basically the last day.

UNREST, VIOLENCE CONTINUE IN PROVINCES

Smuggler Pursuit

LD171304 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 0930 GMT 17 Jul 80

[Text] Our correspondent in Bandar 'Abbas reports that during a confrontation last night between the gendarmerie personnel in Bandar (Khamir) and smugglers, near [name indistinct] and Bandar (Khamir), First Lieutenant Bahramyan, commanding officer of Bandar (Khamir) gendarmerie garrison was martyred while pursuing the smugglers, and Warrant Officer Shanbehkari was injured and transferred to hospital.

Iranshahr-Vasht Clash

LD171712 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1644 GMT 17 Jul 80

[Text] According to a central news unit dispatch, Sistan va Baluchestan's Islamic Revolution Guards Corps has issued statement pertaining to the martyrdom of nine guards on the Iranshahr-Vasht highway. The statement says:

The hands of the Eastern and Western criminal agents have once again protruded from their sleeves in the Baluchestan region and rolled in blood and dust a number of the best sons of the Islamic nation. According to the latest reports which reached us at noon today, as a result of a dastardly attack by assailants on our brother guards on the Iranshahr-Vasht highway, nine of our brother guards achieved the lofty rank of martyrdom and another three were wounded.

We congratulate and give our condolences with the imam of the Muslim nation of Iran on the martyrdom of these self-sacrificing guards.

The funerals of these martyred brothers and the details of the clash will be brought to your attention.

Gonbad Execution

LD171716 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1630 GMT 17 Jul 80

[Text] According to the central news unit, today at dawn a person by the name of 'Abd 'Abdollah Qezel was executed by firing squad after being sentenced by the Islamic Revolution Court in Gonbad, charged with armed insurgence against the Islamic Republic of Iran. In this connection a statement has been issued by the office of the Islamic revolution public prosecutor in Gonbad.

The statement emphasizes that all conspirators and elements creating disturbances are warned to stop their activities obstructing the path of the Islamic revolution, otherwise they will be dealt with severely, since traitors and atheists face painful punishments.

DEVELOPMENTS REGARDING RELATIONS WITH IRAQ

Qasr-e Shirin Attack

LD171030 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 0942 GMT 17 Jul 80

[Text] According to reports received from the news unit of the Kermanshah center, at 2330 last night the mercenery forces of the Iraqi Ba'th Army once again attacked the (Kamisar) and (Salman-Koshteh) garrisons in the Qasr-e Shirin region using heavy and light artillery. The Iranian forces stationed at the border answered their fire with [words indistinct].

This report, which has been confirmed by the commander of the Kermanshah gendarmerie, says that the confrontation lasted until 0145 this morning. We do not have any accurate information on the casualties or the damage resulting from it.

The official in charge of the Islamic Revolution Guards Corps in Qasr-e Shirin, in a contact with the central news unit in Kermanshah, said: Armed insurgents supported by the puppet government of the treacherous Saddam Husayn opened fire on [name indistinct] garrison situated 7 km from Qasr-e Shirin. The military and police personnel of the Islamic Republic of Iran answered their fire and in turn fired shots at the Iraqi positions.

The report indicated that the Qasr-e Shirin region has been quiet during the past 24 hours.

Border Post Attack

LD171036 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 0930 GMT 17 Jul 80

[Text] According to a report from the central news unit, the gendarmerie public relations department of the Islamic Republic of Iran today announced that at 0500 on Tuesday, 15 July, Iraqi mercenery forces using heavy artillery opened fire on the garrisons commanded by the Salehabad gendamerie company and gendarmerie. The army personnel returned the fire against the Iraqi merceneries. As a result of this confrontation, (Shorshirin), Heydarabad and (Montazar) garrisons were destroyed and the arms and ammunition stored at (Shorshirin) were set on fire. Seven Iranian forces were injured and the Iraqi forces [words indistinct] were forced to retreat.

According to the central news bureau, the gendamerie public relations department of the Islamic Republic of Iran issued another statement announcing that on 15 July (Talkhas) garrison, commanded by the (?northern) gendarmerie company, came under heavy fire from Iraqi artillery. As a result of return fire by the personnel of the garrison and the cooperation of guards brothers stationed in the garrison, the Iraqi [name indistinct] garrison was destroyed and the Iraqi personnel forced to evacuate the garrison and to retreat.

Tank Explosion

LD172052 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1959 GMT 17 Jul 80

[Text] A PARS news agency correspondent, quoting the commander of the Iranian Islamic Revolution's Guards Corps, has reported that an Iraqi tank which intended to launch an aggression against Iranian territory has exploded as a result of hitting a mine and that all its occupants have been killed or wounded.

AFP REPORTS IRAN HAS REOPENED BORDERS

NO172030 Paris AFP in English 2029 GMT 17 Jul 80

[Text] Tehran, July 17 (AFP)--Iran's frontiers reopened at midnight (1930 GMT) after being totally sealed for 48 hours, it was learned here.

Authorities at Tehran's international Mehrabad airport confirmed that flights would resume normal operations from tomorrow.

The closure had been decided by the "headquarters of the fight against the conspiracy" to prevent conspirators in a reported plot to overthrow the regime from escaping. It resulted in the cancellation of all flights arriving or leaving for overseas. The only exceptions had been flights carrying perishable food or medicines.

BANI-SADR OPENS YOUTH TRAINING SEMINAR

LD171120 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 0930 GMT 17 Jul 80

[Summary] This morning President Bani-Sadr opened a seminar on the training and the ideological and political development of youth at the center for the intellectual development and training of youth.

The first speaker on the program was Dr Kamal Kharrazi, the director of the center, who described the center's functions. He was followed by President Bani-Sadr, who made a speech in which he stressed the importance of free speech. He also emphasized the importance of intellectual activities and reminded the audience that such activities will prevent stagnation and indifference among the youth.

KUNA: BANI-SADR SEEKS GREATER CONTROL OF RADIO, TV

LD171114 Kuwait KUNA in English 1020 GMT 17 Jul 80

[By Ahmad Hassan]

[Text] Tehran, July 17, (KUNA)--Iran's elected President Abolhasan Bani-Sadr Thursday appeared to be struggling for greater control over the country's administration currently being shared more by Muslim fundamentalists than by him and his close aides and advisors.

Bani-Sadr, apparently concerned about the liberty enjoyed by state owned radio and television, the revolutionary guards and a section of the national press, in a statement said, "You are provoking and helping to create an atmosphere favourable for a military coup."

In a move to demonstrate and exercise his constitutional powers Bani-Sadr ordered the television organization to telecast an interview of Iran's Central Bank Governor 'Ali Reza Nobari immediately.

The interview with Nobari, a close firned and adviser of Bani-Sadr, was recorded earlier but was censored by the TV authorities because he had criticised the clergy and Muslim fundamentalists for certain harsh and drastic steps taken to implement Islamic order.

Before the telecast of the interview the TV authorities in a brief statement read by a commentator criticized Bani-Sadr saying it was not the proper time to give all the reasons why the interview was not telecast and rapped Bani-Sadr and Nobari for their accusations against the national media.

Although Bani-Sadr did not say anything openly about the censoring of the interview, yet he was believed to be upset and very much annoyed at the liberty taken by the state-owned television.

Earlier in a speech Bani-Sadr in addressing the radio and television authorities said he hoped his comments were not to be censored by them. This showed that Bani-Sadr did not have that control over the radio and television which he felt was necessary to run the country's administration effectively.

The radio and television, one of the most important and powerful organs in the government, is controlled indirectly by Muslim fundamentalists and President Bani-Sadr and Foreign Minister Sadeq Qotbzadeh are concerned about its role in mobilising the public opinion.

President Bani-Sadr in his statement said that the radio and television and the press were constantly trying to give the impression that there was no security and law and order in the country. This was an impression highly damaging for the true cause of the Islamic revolution, he said.

In a stern warning to the radio and television authorities, Bani-Sadr said the media had notion that the best way to promote the revolutionary cause was to provoke the people. This, he said, was a wrong approach and should be stopped immediately.

The morning daily JOMHURIYEH ESLAMI, the official organ of the Islamic Republic Party (IRP) and spokesman of Moslem fundamentalists also yesterday dropped Bani-Sadr's speech in which he claimed that it was he who discovered the military coup plot and added that all the loud claims made by certain Muslim fundamentalists were nothing but empty slogans.

The newspaper carried a brief note in yesterday's issue saying the president's speech would appear in Thursday's issue. Today it was carried in inside pages.

EMBASSY DENIES ILLEGAL TRANSFER OF FUNDS BY BEHESHTI

LD171806 Hamburg DPA in German 1808 GMT 17 Jul 80

[Text] Bonn--The Iranian Embassy in Bonn today rejected press reports that Ayatollah Mohammad Beheshti, chairman of the Islamic Republican Party and chairman of the Iranian Supreme Court, has unlawfully transferred sums of money to his private account. The embassy emphasized that the allegation that members of the Iranian leadership have at any time transferred money from Iran to foreign countries is pure invention and in no way corresponds to the truth. These reports have already been sharply denied both by the Islamic center in Hamburg and the director general of the Iranian Central Bank.

The embassy considers that reports of this kind are intended to cast aspersions on Iran and its religious leaders.

ARCHBISHOP CAPUCCI MEETS WITH PRESIDENT

LD171718 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1630 GMT 17 Jul 80

[Text] According to PARS NEWS AGENCY, Archbishop Capucci met and conferred with President Seyyed Abolhasan Bani-Sadr today. At this meeting in which the press and cultural adviser to the president, the commander of the guards corps and representatives of Catholic schools in Tehran were present, problems facing Andisheh school were discussed.

KUNA: PAKISTANI GROUP SAYS EMBASSY SPYING FOR U.S.

LD171044 Kuwait KUNA in English 0958 GMT 17 Jul 80

[Text] Tehran, July 17, (KUNA)--The Pakistani Embassy in Tehran was today accused of espionage activities in Iran.

A self-proclaimed organization of Pakistani freedom-fighters claiming to have branches all over the world issued its second statement saying that the United States handed over the task of spying to Pakistan in this region following the takeover of the American Embassy in Tehran by Muslim students.

The CIA agents in the Pakistani Embassy here were engaged in hatching plots against true Islamic and revolutionary movements in this region, the statement published by a leading Farsi newspaper said.

"The imperialist power of the United States which ruled over the gulf region for a long time to exploit and to protect its selfish interests was now highly concerned and terrified after losing Iran, a rich country with great strategic importance. It was also worried about the expansion and penetration of true Islam into other countries of this region", the statement added.

The statement further said the United States is trying to put Pakistani President Gen. Ziaul Haq in place of Iran's deposed shah and protect the image of Pakistani foreign minister Agha Shahi to make him play the role of Iran's former Foreign Minister Zahdi.

The statement issued here in the name of the Islamic revolutionary movement of Pakistan has caused great concern among the Pakistani and Regional Cooperation for Development (RCD) diplomats here. Pakistan's ambassador to Iran 'Ali Arshad has reportedly requested the Iranian Foreign Ministry for appropriate security measures in the wake of these statements.

Earlier in a statement, the Pakistani freedom-fighters had warned to blast the Pakistan Embassy here if it tried to stop them from their revolutionary activities in Iran.

The Islamic revolutionary movement with groups of Pakistani freedom-fighters all over the world was formed when the president of Pakistan's bar association visited Iran several weeks ago.

When contacted a spokesman for the Pakistan Embassy here denied any knowledge about the existence of Pakistan freedom-fighters in Iran and added that certain irresponsible elements were deliberately trying to cause differences between Iran and Pakistan.

Pakistani freedom-fighters here stepped up their activities following the differences in Pakistan between the Shia leaders and President Gen. Ziaul Hag over the issue of Islamic jurisprudence and the forceful recovery of Zakat in that country.

VIETNAMESE MINISTER VOICES HOPE OF EMBASSY EXCHANGE

LD171041 Tehran KEYHAN in Persian 12 Jul 80 p 14

[Unattributed report: "Vietnamese Minister Declares at Meeting With President of the Republic: 'Among the Vietnamese People, Imam Khomeyni Is as Respected as Ho Chi Minh'"]

[Text] Phan Hein, Vietnamese minister in charge of information and cultural relations with foreign countries and special representative of the SRV prime minister's office, had a meeting and talks with Dr Abolhasan Bani-Sadr, president of the republic, at the prime minister's office. At the conclusion of the meeting, the cultural and information adviser to the president, Husavi Garmarudi, announced the text of a statement by the policy commission of the president's office as follows:

"On the afternoon of Thursday 19 Tir [10 July] Dr Beyyed Abolhasan Bani-Sadr, president of the republic, met Mr Phan Hein, special envoy from the SRV prime minister. At this meeting, which took place in a cordial and friendly atmosphere, the Vietnamese Government special envoy delivered messages from the president and the prime minister of Vietnam tothe president [of Iran], and referred to Vietnam's solidarity with and special interest in the Iranian people's revolution.

"He then informed our president of the present situation in Vietnam, of the clashes with China, and of the state of the region.

The president expressed thanks for the remarks made by the Vietnamese authorities and referred to the economic sanctions and pressures from America in the following terms: "'Our people have made the decision to face these difficulties. At present, I am able to tell you that fortunately in spite of America's expectations, our economy has begun to move and the people are striving to attain production.'

"He then referred to the Vietnamese people's heroic struggles and stated: 'Your people's heroic struggle is a model both for us and for all humanity. It is our hope that your revolution and your people will meet with ever increasing success, and that they will advance the struggle against imperialism in the best manner possible.

"The Vietnamese Government envoy then expressed the hope that relations would soon extend to a level where embassies might be opened. Requesting our president to transmit the sincere sentiments of the people and government of Vietnam to his eminence the imam, he said: "Among our people, his eminence Imam Khomeyni is as respected as Ho Chi Minh. Mr Phan Hein then officially invited the president to visit Vietnam and to observe at close hand the Vietnamese people's deep feelings toward the Iranian revolution and people.

"In his reply, the president expressed the hope that, after the difficulties which currently beset Iran have been resolved, we will find the opportunity to visit Vietnam."

NVOI DISCUSSES MEDIA'S REVOLUTIONARY ROLE

TA172028 [Editorial Report] The clandestine National Voice of Iran in Persian to Iran at 1730 GMT on 17 July carried a commentary.

The Commentary entitled "The Mass Media Should Be the Language of the Revolutionary Forces," says that among the important government organizations whose deep-cleansing Ayatollah Khomeyni has repeatedly urges is the Voice and Vision of the Islamic Republic of Iran. According to the orders of the imam, several changes have already been made in the supervision of this organization. However, unfortunately, up to now no fundamental change can be observed in the work of the Voice and Vision of Iran toward safeguarding the revolution and its gains and toward reflecting the views of the true forces of the revolution. The cleansing that the revolutionary forces and the true followers of the imam's path desire has not been implemented in this large organization.

Judging from the programs of this mass media organ we reach the conclusion that a constant clash is still continuing in the Voice and Vision of the Islamic Republic of Iran, and a number of people in this organization still continue their hostility toward the revolutionary forces. The aim of these people is to create division and discord among the true revolutionary forces and the groups and parties committed to the revolution. Even many of our homeland's national and committed newspapers are discontent with this policy of Iran's radio and television. At the same time the foreign section of the Voice and Vision of the Islamic Republic of Iran mainly carries reports that, unfortunately, cite from imperialist and Zionist news agencies by observing the programming and work of this organization it is completely obvious that, despite the demand of the leader of the revolution and the forces committed to the revolution, it has been transformed into a monopolistic institution.

It is a revolutionary necessity that fundamental and broad changes should be carried out in Iran's radio and television organization. In the present conditions, when imperialism and Zionism are openly engaged in hatching continuous plots against our homeland's independence and the existence of the Islamic Republic of Iran, negligence in the task of cleansing the radio and television is a dangerous matter. Divorced from any kind of monopolism, radio and television should be the language of all the national and anti-imperialist forces and the mouthpiece of their views and ideas.

LATE REPORT: SECURITY TIGHTENED AT BORDERS

LD181126 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 0942 GMT 18 Jul 80

[Text] Statement No 9 of the staff coordinating the neutralization of plots has been issued today. It reads as follows:

In the name of God, the compassionate, the merciful. O vigilant Muslim nation of Iran. In order to capture the elements in hiding implicated in the plot hatched by the arch-Satan, the world-devouring United States--a plot which has been discovered and foiled--we put forward the following points:

1. It is highly probable that the individuals in hiding implicated in the plot network continued in hiding during the period when the country's borders were closed, but now that the country's borders have been opened they might, by various endeavors, attempt to leave the country. Therefore, all security officers in airports, ports and other border areas are hereby informed to control the borders most stringently and all zealous border inhabitants are emphatically called upon to keep a sharp watch on borders which are penetrable. Please pay attention. Once again we call upon Iran's valiant frontiersmen to control every suspect movement, and in this connection we particularly appeal for help from the dear frontiersmen in Kordestan and Azarbayjan and those along the water borders in the southern parts of the country.

2. Those persons who have information about these individuals and who have not placed such information at the disposal of the responsible forces; who have somehow or another given aid to these plotting individuals who are in hiding with the aim of facilitating their escape; or are about to render such assistance to them, are hereby warned that they should place all information at the disposal of the guards corps, the committees, and other security forces. Otherwise they will be deemed as having committed the crime of participating in the plot and when detected will be severely punished.

Peace be upon you.

[Signed] The staff coordinating the neutralization of plots.